AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (Currently amended). A process for coenzyme Q-10 (CoQ10) production comprising introducing a mevalonate operon of a microorganism belonging to the genus *Paracoccus* into a microorganism belonging to the genus *Rhodobacter* and cultivating the modified *Rhodobacter* strain, wherein the mevalonate operon comprises polynucleotides that encode MvaA (hydroxymethylglutaryl-CoA reductase), Idi (isopentenyl diphosphate isomerase), Hcs (hydroxymethylglutaryl-CoA synthase), Mvk (mevalonate kinase), Pmk (phosphomevalonate kinase), and Mvd (diphosphomevalonate decarboxylase).

Claim 2 (Original). The process of claim 1, wherein *R. sphaeroides* is used as the CoQ10 producing microorganism.

Claim 3 (Previously presented). The process of claim 1 wherein the mevalonate operon of *Paracoccus zeaxanthinifaciens* is introduced into the *Rhodobacter* strain.

Claim 4 (Currently amended). A process for producing coenzyme Q-10 (CoQ10) which comprises culturing, in a medium, a microorganism of the genus *Rhodobacter* into which the mevalonate operon of a microorganism of the genus *Paracoccus* has been introduced, allowing CoQ10 to form and accumulate in the culture and recovering CoQ10 therefrom, wherein the mevalonate operon comprises polynucleotides that encode MvaA (hydroxymethylglutaryl-CoA reductase), Idi

(isopentenyl diphosphate isomerase), Hcs (hydroxymethylglutaryl-CoA synthase), Mvk (mevalonate kinase), Pmk (phosphomevalonate kinase), and Mvd (diphosphomevalonate decarboxylase).

Claim 5 (Currently amended). A microorganism of the genus *Rhodobacter* containing the mevalonate operon of a microorganism of the genus *Paracoccus*, wherein the mevalonate operon comprises polynucleotides that encode MvaA (hydroxymethylglutaryl-CoA reductase), Idi (isopentenyl diphosphate isomerase), Hcs (hydroxymethylglutaryl-CoA synthase), Mvk (mevalonate kinase), Pmk (phosphomevalonate kinase), and Mvd (diphosphomevalonate decarboxylase).

Claim 6 (Original). The microorganism of claim 5 which is *Rhodobacter sphaeroides*.

Claim 7 (Previously presented). The microorganism of claim 5 containing the mevalonate operon of *Paracoccus zeaxanthinifaciens*.

Claims 8-9 (Cancelled).